

State of Connecticut
Department of Correction
Program Development

Alphabetical Listing of Programs for ROBINSON CI

Addiction Services Aftercare Program

Description

The aftercare program is available to inmates following completion of Tier 3 or Tier 4 programs. It is designed to provide a continuum of care and maintenance of a recovery identity, which fosters independence, personal responsibility, and application of relapse prevention skills.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services

Types:

Addiction

Addiction Services Tier 2 Intensive Outpatient Program

Description

The Tier 2 Program is an intensive outpatient Addiction Services program with 30 curriculum sessions for 10 weeks. Group components are held three times weekly and incorporate weekly fellowship meetings to lay the foundation of basic substance abuse information, promote personal identification with recovery, and motivate further treatment involvement.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services

Types:

Addiction

Addiction Services Tier 4 Residential Treatment Program

Description

The Tier 4 Addiction Services program is a modified therapeutic community. The program provides inmates the opportunity to be involved in full-time substance treatment in a separate housing unit. Tier 4 treatment is intensive and includes curriculum, skill building and process groups, as well as community building and individual counseling. These residential programs are six months in length.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services

Types:

Addiction

Adult Basic Education (ABE)

Description

ABE is the primary program of instruction designed to provide training in basic academic skills in the areas of reading, mathematics, language arts, general science and social studies. The program is directed toward increasing proficiency to the eighth grade level.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education

Alcoholics Anonymous

Description

This is a 12-Step Fellowship self-help group for men and women who provide mutual support in obtaining and maintaining sobriety while also helping others to recover from alcoholism. Meetings, in a variety of formats (Big Book, Step Meetings, Speaker, etc.), are held on a weekly basis. Addiction Services staff coordinate the meetings and provide oversight for the program.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Addiction

Alternatives to Violence (AVP):

Description

Certified AVP volunteers lead basic, intermediate and advanced workshops to teach inmates to understand and to control anger, and how to cope with violence in their lives. Inmates are provided certificates of completion for each workshop level. Those completing AVP workshops become eligible to serve as group facilitators.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Volunteer Group

Types:

Anger Management

Apprenticeship Programs

Description

Apprenticeships in concert with the Labor Department are offered in thirty-six programs at twelve sites. These programs range in length from six months to three years. Vocational students earn apprenticeship credit and upon completion of a program are awarded a prospective apprenticeship certificate by the Connecticut Labor Department.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Transition, Vocational Education

Artists In Residence

Description

Accomplished artists provide inmates with an introduction to the basic principles of fine art. Volunteer Artists-In-Residence within correctional institutions bring art behind bars and serve to broaden inmates' abilities to express themselves by developing talents or skills in drawing, painting, music and creative writing. Inmate artwork is collected annually by a Prison Art Program Curator from Hartford's Community Partners in Action (CPA) which operates this service solely through the support of grants from local foundations, corporations and the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. This art collection is arranged for exhibition in community spaces across the state. The CPA also publishes an annual journal of arts in correction serving to bring creative writing, poetry and visual art produced by inmates to the broader community.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Volunteer Services

Types:

Self Improvement

Band Program

Description

This program provides inmates of different musical backgrounds an opportunity to learn and create different styles of music. There are currently four bands and each band plays twice a week for an hour session. These bands occasionally perform for the inmate population during various monthly activities.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Self Improvement

Beginners and Advanced Art Programs

Description

This is a program specifically developed to enable inmates with different artistic abilities to work together. This program consists of painting, pencil and pen sketches and pastels.

This class is offered two times a week for two hours per session. Some finished projects have been displayed in CPA-sponsored art galleries.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Self Improvement

Bridging the Gap

Description

Alcoholics Anonymous is one of the most important self-help resources for alcoholic men and women. A very important first step for inmates being released into the community is attending the first meeting as soon as possible following release. Addiction Services staff in the institution utilize a toll-free telephone number to get information about the nearest AA meeting location, along with the name of a contact person. An AA member then will contact the inmate upon release and even provide transportation to a meeting.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services

Types:

Addiction

Building Maintenance

Description

This program is designed to help students develop their special interests in the areas of woodworking, electricity, masonry and plumbing techniques. The first phase includes cabinetmaking, carpentry, furniture refinishing, and machine work. The second phase of the program involves basics of electricity, plugs, cords and receptacles. In the final phase of Building Maintenance the students learn the techniques of plumbing, including cutting, threading, and bending copper and plastic pipe. Throughout the courses shop and tool safety is always stressed.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

Catholic Bible Study

Description

Biblical readings are reviewed with inmates. The goal of this program is to help inmates develop self-awareness and personal growth based on Christian principles.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Catholic Mass

Description

This is the weekly Catholic worship service.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Worship Services

Catholic Rap Group

Description

This is a weekly informal discussion group that is open to current issues pertaining to the Catholic faith and their practical application. A volunteer conducts this group.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Religious

Catholic Studies

Description

Participants in this program study materials from the Confirmation Lesson Plan Guide. This study prepares students for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Choir

Description

Both Catholic and Protestant inmates are able to join choirs in their respective religious service. These choirs both enhance the religious liturgies and add a level of veneration to those services.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Commercial Cleaning

Description

This thirty-week program focuses on basic and advanced commercial cleaning procedures. The program covers the chemistry of cleaning, handling of hazardous and infectious waste, and the basic cleaning procedures for floor, tile, carpeted areas and restrooms. In phase two, the student is taught advanced procedures for maintaining all types of surfaces, as well as the necessary skills to recognize and operate various types of equipment. Graduation from this program can assist inmates in obtaining a job in the community.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

Culinary Arts

Description

This course stresses safety and sanitation as well as tool and equipment usage. Through practice and discussion, students are taught skills in basic cooking, methods, culinary techniques, weights, measures and recipe conversions. Participants earn a Safe Serve Certificate after passing a test administered by the National Restaurant Association. This program is an apprenticeship approved through the CT State Department of Labor.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

Domestic Violence Group

Description

This group is designed for inmates who have committed a domestic violence offense. Successful completion of this program is a requirement for those inmates who enter into the department's community-based transitional supervision program for domestic violence offenders.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Domestic Violence, Family

Educational, Career Resources and Job Fairs

Description

These types of Fairs are conducted in the form of a professional conference for students. The educational staff invite a keynote speaker and students proceed to attend individual workshops on a variety of topics. The goal of these Fairs is to assist inmates with their transition plans before they return to the community.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Transition

Embracing Fatherhood

Description

Embracing Fatherhood is a program designed to assist incarcerated fathers in gaining awareness of the important role they play in the lives of their children. This awareness will enable participants to successfully embrace their roles as fathers and begin to build healthy lifestyles that will benefit both their children and them.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff, Volunteer Group

Types:

Family

Family Education & Parenting

Description

This program is designed to help inmates with children become responsible parents. Inmates have classes in parenting skills and in some cases read children's books into audio or video-cassettes to send home to their children. Components of the parenting skills classes include parenting from a distance, discipline techniques, and communicating with children.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff, USD#1

Types:

Family

General Educational Development (GED)

Description

The GED is the primary program of instruction for students functioning above an eighth grade level who wish to earn a State of Connecticut high school diploma through the examination process. GED Tutors and volunteers assist Department teachers by helping inmates prepare for the GED Exam and/or by helping to teach basic language skills.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education

Graphics & Print Technology

Description

The graphic arts/printing course is designed to provide students the opportunity to learn the skills necessary to work in the printing field. Students gain an understanding of the overall printing process to include graphics layout, design, production printing and binding.

Students concentrate on proper shop safety procedures, darkroom techniques and desktop publishing skills. Each student receives "hands on" instruction operating single color offset presses, two color-T-head presses, paper cutters and bindery equipment. Class theory work includes estimating material needs and costs, running small and large production companies, learning terminology related to the field and methods of managing quality control processes. Students learn basic equipment upkeep and care, as well as equipment problem diagnosis and minor equipment repair.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

HIV Counseling, Testing & Risk Reduction Education

Description

When inmates are tested for HIV, the department provides standardized counseling by Department of Public Health certified counselors before and after testing. Counseling components include what HIV and AIDS are, how to get it, how to avoid getting it, what it means to be HIV positive, how to take care of oneself if one is HIV positive, and help in dealing with the associated feelings.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Health Services

Types:

Health Education

HIV Support Services

Description

The Department demonstrates a collaborative approach in providing HIV support services to inmates in all facilities. A UCONN (Contracted) Health Services Team coordinates testing and counseling services; the Department's School District conducts classroom instruction about HIV; the Department's Addiction Services Unit Counselors provide HIV education and prevention counseling; a number of volunteers serve as "buddies" or sponsors; and Hartford's Community Partners in Action (CPA) receives funding from foundations, grants as well as support from the state's Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to operate the "Beyond Fear" Program. Altogether the Department hosts a complete program that includes counseling, testing, education focus groups, videos, intervention strategies and is able to assist discharging inmates with need for such services as housing, medical treatment, food, clothing and transportation.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Health Services

Types:

Health Education

HIV Volunteer Support Services

Description

In this program volunteers work with individuals and community-based HIV organizations to provide support services to offenders experiencing HIV related issues.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Health Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Health Education

Horticulture Program

Description

This course explores the "green industry" and the occupations associated with this field. A variety of skills will be instructed and practiced in preparation for students to enter the trade. Subject areas include the botany of plants and their identification; the design and construction of landscapes; the study of insect pests, pest control and safe use of pesticides; the practice of landscape maintenance and turf management; bedding plant production and greenhouse operations and safe work practices and workplace safety techniques. These skills are easily transferred to the outside job market.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

Islamic (Quran) Study

Description

Quran readings are reviewed with inmates. The goal of this program is to help inmates develop self-awareness and personal growth based on Islamic principles.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Islamic Video and Discussion

Description

This is a weekly instructional video and discussion group focused on the historical background of Islam, prayer, customs, and traditions. A short discussion follows each video.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Religious

Jehovah's Witness Bible Study

Description

Biblical readings are reviewed with inmates. The goal of this program is to help inmates develop self-awareness and personal growth based on Jehovah's Witness principles.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Religious

Jehovah's Witness Worship Service

Description

This is the weekly Jehovah's Witness worship service.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Religious

Jewish Worship and Torah Studies

Description

Jewish Worship services and Torah studies are conducted weekly. During the Holy Days, services are celebrated under the supervision of the Religious Coordinator.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Worship Services

Jumah

Description

Jumah is the weekly Muslim worship service.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Worship Services

Literacy Volunteers of America

Description

An active group of community volunteers, as well as inmate volunteers, contribute hundreds of hours to combat illiteracy for inmates in all of the facilities. Basic reading, vocabulary and comprehension skills are stressed.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1, Volunteer Services

Types:

Academic Education

Machine Tool

Description

This course provides students with a basic understanding and training in the fundamentals and principles of machine tooling. Students study units in machine shop safety, math, blueprint reading, physical properties and identification of metals, measuring instruments, hand tools and machinery. A major area of concentration is machine shop measurement.

Tools that are included in this areas are: rulers, squares, calipers, dividers, protractors, indicators, and micrometers. Hands-on training for the following machinery is also introduced: engine lathe, band saw drill press, surface grinder, Bridgeport milling machine, and vertical miller. Training includes both set-up and operation of these machines.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

Marriage/Family Relationships

Description

These weekly classes will give an inmate an opportunity to examine the family as an institution; the dynamics of interpersonal relationships within a family; society's expectations; personal expectations; personal growth issues that are common barriers to effective communication; and the inmate's role within his family. Rotating units of study will include an eight-session series on marital issues which will fulfill pre-marital counseling requirements; parenting via Christian principles; exercising Godly leadership in the home; and more.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Religious

Micro Computers/Computer Education

Description

The MicroComputer Software Application Technology course is designed to provide students with an introduction to computer operations and with the application of various software packages and programs. Students begin by learning simple software programs and then progress to more sophisticated packages as their individual skills develop. Software programs introduced include but are not limited to the following: Access, Visual Basics, Adobe Pagemaker, Excel, WordPerfect, MicroSoft Works, Power Point, Micro-Soft Word, Micro-Soft for Windows, and PageMaker. Students design and complete projects using this software.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

Narcotics Anonymous

Description

Narcotics Anonymous is a twelve-step fellowship of addicts helping addicts to recover from the disease of addiction. Meetings, in a variety of formats (Step Meetings, Speaker, Speaker/Discussion, etc.), are held on a weekly basis. The meetings are usually conducted by outside volunteers who share their story of addiction and recovery. Addiction Services staff coordinate the meetings and provide oversight for the program.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Addiction

Native American Video and Discussion

Description

This is a weekly instructional video and discussion group that focuses on the historical background of the 500 nations of native people, their customs, and traditions. A short discussion follows each video.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Religious

Native American Worship

Description

Sacred Circle is a community prayer, which includes smudging. It is celebrated weekly.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Religious, Worship Services

Peer Mentor Program

Description

Peer Mentors are Tier program graduates who assist Addiction Services staff in the presentation of Tier program groups and 12-Step Fellowship groups. The primary purpose of Peer Mentors is to model a recovery lifestyle for other program participants. Weekly training meetings are required for all Peer Mentors.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services

Types:

Addiction

Post-Secondary Programs

Description

College and Correspondence Courses are offered in an effort to encourage or prepare students for ongoing educational opportunities (Students pay a tuition and book fee for college courses). One of the main goals is to be able to provide well-behaved inmates an opportunity to be engaged in self-development.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education

Protestant Bible Study

Description

Biblical readings are reviewed with inmates. The goal of this program is to help inmates develop self-awareness and personal growth based on Christian principles.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Religious

Protestant Bible Study (Spanish)

Description

Biblical readings are reviewed with Spanish inmates. The goal of this program is to help inmates develop self-awareness and personal growth based on Christian principles.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Protestant Service

Description

This is the weekly Protestant worship service.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Worship Services

Protestant Service (Spanish)

Description

This is the weekly Protestant worship service conducted in Spanish.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Worship Services

Read to Your Children

Description

This program is designed to foster a bond between a child and his/her incarcerated parent. USD#1 creates and maintains a collection of children's books. Inmates can select from a book and read to their child during regular visiting hours. In some cases, inmates enrolled in school can read a book and be videotaped and then send the tape and book to the child.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Family

Small Engine Repair

Description

This program instructs students in the repair of two-cycle, four cycle and marine engines. It uses both hands-on training and theory classes. Group/individual instruction is offered by a qualified supervisor and periodic tests in theory and practice are administered. This program is very useful to inmates seeking employment in the community.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

Special Education and Pupil Services

Description

The special education teachers, pupil services specialists (School Psychologists, School Counselors, School Social Workers), and the associated clerical and durational staff provide services to students with handicapping conditions which interfere with their ability to participate in school. These services are mandated by federal (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997) and state (Connecticut General Statutes 10-76) statute. Special education services encompass a broad array of activities including assessment, counseling, transition planning, and both the direct and indirect (e.g. consultation) services of the special education teachers and pupil services staff. Student programs are designed according to the individual needs of each student with disabilities and are specified in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP.)

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education

Sponsorship Behind the Walls

Description

This program is designed for inmates participating in a 12-step recovery program. It enables participants to write to an outside sponsor in order to work the 12 steps of recovery.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Addiction

Steps to Christian Maturity

Description

These weekly classes will address spiritual growth from the initial phase of becoming a follower of Christ. Participants will apply the principles found in scripture to their life experiences. Through self-examination, prayer, and weekly study the participant will learn necessary tools for developing a closer walk with God. Materials used will include Bibles, and workbooks. Instruction will include lectures, video presentations, and class discussion.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Religious

Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

Description

TESOL is an instructional program for students whose primary language is not English. TESOL instruction helps students to speak, read and write English or assists them in developing the language skills necessary for overall academic and vocational progress.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education

Tech Prep Program

Description

This is a program that offers opportunities for high school students to earn college credits through work with Community Colleges and USD#1 teachers.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

Thinking for a Change

Description

This cognitive behavior program was developed by the National Institute of Corrections. It is designed to help inmates change the way they think, help inmates develop improved social skills, and help inmates learn problem-solving skills. Research links successful completion of such programs to reduced recidivism.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Self Improvement, Youth CDU

Transition/School to Work

Description

The Transition/School to Work program's mission is to place participating students in employment and/or vocational/educational programs and to provide each student with a needs-based transition plan prior to his/her release to maximize potential for successful re-entry into society. School-based and work-based learning opportunities are provided through job and resource fairs, employment skills curriculum, sessions with transition counselors and meetings with a transition coordinator. A USD#1 brochure describing this program is available.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Transition

Transitional Linkage into the Community (TLC)

Description

Transitional Linkage into the Community (TLC) is a program of Community Partners in Action which provides discharge planning for inmates with HIV/AIDS. TLC serves every prison and jail in the state, and works with clients returning to every region of the state. TLC case managers meet clients' emergency needs upon release, and connect them with services in their local communities for continuing care and assistance.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Contracted Program, Health Services

Types:

Health Education, Transition

V.O.I.C.E.S. (Victim Offender Institutional Correctional Educational Services)

Description

Volunteers support the Department's V.O.I.C.E.S. Program. It is designed to broaden inmates' understanding and sensitivity to the impact of their crime on others.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff, Victim Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Domestic Violence, Victim

Victim-Offender Dialogue

Description

For a variety of reasons, it is sometimes helpful for victims to meet with offenders. The department's Victim Services Unit evaluates and when appropriate facilitates this dialogue. The process is designed to achieve the objectives of restorative justice, healing the victim, and confronting and holding the offender accountable. Although this process can often be very helpful to the inmate, all such dialogues are initiated at the request of victims.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff, Victim Services

Types:

Domestic Violence, Victim

Youth Offender Program

Description

Through the use of federal funds, post-secondary education and transition services are provided to "youth offenders" up to the age of 26 who are eligible for parole or release within five years. A transition counselor provides assistance and counseling to encourage participants to acquire functional literacy as well as life/job skills while in prison. Students participate in post-secondary classes, complete portfolios, and develop transition plans and placement.

Facility:

Robinson CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education, Vocational Education